

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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Working Conditions in the USSR

1. When a person becomes of age in the USSR and wishes to take his first job, he obtains a birth certificate from the municipal administration and begins looking for a job. His first position is as an apprentice. After working three months he has the right, or rather, is required, to become a member of the trade union for the type of work he does.
2. The manager of a government enterprise can discharge a worker for insubordination, refusal to perform an assigned task, etc, but he is required by law to give the worker 15 days' notice. Should a person be dismissed without notice, the manager is required to pay him 15 days' wages.
3. When a laborer becomes ill, he must visit the physician of the enterprise where he works or must notify the physician, if the nature of the illness prevents his visiting the dispensary. The doctor enters him on the sick list or sends him to the hospital; if sent to the hospital, the worker is given a certificate relieving him from his work for ten days, at the end of which period he is to be re-examined or held in the hospital for observation or further treatment. Medical service is free to workers, but they have to pay for medicines. Medicines received in hospitals are free. A worker does not have the right to be absent from work without permission or a doctor's approval.
4. When a laborer does not go to work and does not at the same time give notice concerning his absence to the office of the enterprise where he is employed, two persons, one from the MVD section of the enterprise and the other from the worker's trade union, come to visit him. If his absence is deemed unjustified, the manager of his enterprise makes out a report and sends it to the municipal court, where a trial date is set and the worker is sentenced to from three months to three years in prison.

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5. A worker cannot leave his job without permission. If he wants to change jobs, he must submit an application to the director of the enterprise where he works; the decision of the director is final.<sup>1</sup>
6. Every worker who has a regular job has the right to rest for 12-24 working days a year, which means a vacation of 14-28 days. These work leaves are granted by the director of the enterprise. In the plant, discipline is strict and a worker who refuses to follow directions can be released at once without the 15 days' pay (sic).
7. In 1948 the following wages were paid at the KEMZ factory at Kokand:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Rubles per month</u>
Charwoman	300-350
Common laborer in ordinary work	300-350
Common laborer in heavy work	400-500
Electrician	450-800
Lathe operator	450-800
Draftsman	500-700
Blacksmith	700-1000
Telephone operator	340-410
Guard	325-380
Director	2000
Chief engineer	1800-2000
Assistant chief engineer	1500
Department head	1000-1200
Engineer	700-1000

During the same period the following deductions were made from the salaries of workers:

10% for the State lottery  
 7-13% for propaganda and education taxes, depending on the salary  
 3% for the trade union  
 5-6% for the Party.

8. It is very difficult for a worker to move, as quarters are seldom available. Workers generally live in houses belonging to the factory where they work or to the city. Workers pay 25-30 rubles per month to rent two rooms and a kitchen or 10-12 rubles per month to rent only a single room. Rent is determined by the amount of floor space a room has.

#### Education in the USSR

9. Everyone in the USSR is required to complete four years of school. Elementary education in the seven-year school is free; high school students pay up to 20 rubles' tuition monthly and college students pay fees of 100-150 rubles monthly. The best students are exempt from paying fees. Students are required to pay for supplies and books, which are very cheap, though they can be purchased only at the schools. Schools receive their books and supplies from State stores, which do not sell these materials directly to students.
1. Comment. The final decision rests with the ministry which controls the plant, though appeals to the ministry usually do not meet with success.

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